

MEETING	Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee
DATE	22nd October 2019
TITLE	Update on Harbour Management Matters
AUTHOR	Senior Harbours Officer

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The Committee's main function is to consider, discuss and advise on matters relating to the management, safety and development of the Harbour and to receive Member's observations on matters relating to Barmouth Harbour.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update for the attention of the Committee on harbour matters for the period March 2019 to October 2019, in order to receive feedback from the members on safety matters and the operational matters of the Harbour.

2. Barmouth Moorings and Boat Registration.

- 2.1 In 2019/20 figures for on moorings in the Harbour were as follows:-
- 2.2 There has been 70 boats on annual moorings in 2019. This compares with 69 in 2018 and 86 in 2017. It is apparent that this figure has remained relatively consistent over the last year
- 2.3 On the whole when comparing all Gwynedd Council Harbours, there has been a decrease in the number of customers over the past year in all harbours.
- 2.4 There were 887 Power Boats registered in Gwynedd in 2019. 66 Boats were registered at Barmouth Harbour compared to 75 in 2018.
- 2.5 There were 844 Personal watercraft registered in Gwynedd in 2019.
- 2.6 There were 79 Personal watercraft registered at Barmouth harbour compared to 74 the previous year.
- 2.7 Copies of all data relating to occupancy and registration is appended.

3. Port Marine Safety Code.

- 3.1.1 The Port Marine Safety Code ('PMSC') sets out a national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. Its aim is to enhance safety for everyone who uses or works in the port marine environment. It applies to all Statutory Harbour Authorities.

The Code represents good practice as recognised by a wide range of industry stakeholders and Gwynedd Council understands that a failure to adhere to good practice may be indicative of a harbour authority being in breach of certain legal duties. It is necessary for the Service to receive the comments and views of Consultative Committee Members on the suitability of the Port Marine Safety Code and to regularly receive observations on its contents, in order that it may be reviewed as relevant to the harbour activities, navigational aids, suitability of by-laws, safety matters and general day to day work at Barmouth Harbour.

- 3.1.2 Between the 19th and 21st September 2017, a thorough inspection was carried out by Capt Forkanul Quader and Capt David Turner as auditors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the

existing safety arrangements and systems of Gwynedd Municipal Harbours, in order to ensure compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. Upon inspection, the Service were advised of enhancements that could be made to existing systems within its safety management system to assist in compliance with the provisions of the Code.

- 3.1.3 As a follow up to that initial inspection, during the period 4th – 6th March 2019, the Service received a further visit from Capt Forkanul Quader to see how the suggested enhancements had been implemented. During his inspection he also took the opportunity to visit Barmouth harbour. Upon examination, Capt Quader advised that he was satisfied the Service were in compliance with the provisions of the Port Marine Safety Code. Having previously received an invitation, members of the Barmouth Harbour Consultative Committee had the opportunity to speak with Capt Quader when he made a presentation before the Harbour Consultative Committee at Porthmadog at the .
- 3.1.4 Although the Port Marine Safety Code for the Harbours is regularly reviewed by the Service, Members of the Consultative Committee are reminded of their duty to submit observations on the suitability of the Safety Code and to receive observations on the work arrangements of the harbours, so that the safety Code can be reviewed to ensure that it is relevant to harbour operations, local propriety.

4. Staffing Matters.

The seasonal employment period of the Barmouth Harbour Assistant ended on the 30th September 2019. However, in order to ensure support for the Harbourmaster and provide a continuation of the Service across the County, the employment period has been extended until the end of December 2019. As and when required, the Harbour Assistant will also be assisting with work in the harbours of Porthmadog and Aberdyfi.

5. Financial Matters.

- 5.1 A brief summary of the harbours budgets and current financial situation up to the end of September 2019 will be distributed at the meeting.
- 5.2 During this period it was necessary to commit financial resources for the following;
- The extension of staff employment terms
 - Maintenance of navigational aids and beacons
 - Inspection and maintenance of Council moorings
 - Maintenance and operation of the of Harbour patrol vessel
 - Maintenance of land and street furniture

5.3 Fees and Charges. 2019/20.

With regard to the prospective fees and charges for Barmouth Harbour together with the Powerboat and Personal Watercraft launching fees for 2020/21, it is the intention of the service to adjust the fees in line with the rate of inflation. At this time the Service indicates that the fees will rise by approximately 2%

A draft of the proposed fees and charges will be distributed at the meeting.

- 6. Harbourmasters Report.** The Harbourmaster at Barmouth will provide a summary of the Navigational and Operational matters undertaken and encountered during the period March 2019 - October 2019 inclusive, including maintenance issues. A copy of his report is attached.